

After the service of the Greek Church was over, a similar procession of the Latin clergy took place. Then followed the service of the minor sects, Armenians, Syrians, Copts and Abyssinians together. Each of these communions has its own chapel near the Holy Sepulchre. The latter are much less numerous than the Greeks and Latins, and exhibit evidence of a much inferior wealth. The Armenian patriarch, a venerable old man with white flowing beard, feebly tottered along, supported on either side by two priests, waving a crucifix in his hands. As I gazed upon the strange pageant I felt to the full the spell of that sorcery which from the time of Constantine had compelled the homage of mankind.

The Holy Sepulchre is surrounded by, and almost embedded in, the many buildings of the Greek, Abyssinian and Coptic monasteries. The Greek monastery

is a vast structure capable of entertaining a couple of thousand pilgrims. We climbed to its flat roof, a large area where the monks pass much of their time enjoying the fresh air. The Abyssinian and Coptic monasteries are very poor, and we saw some wild-looking pilgrims in sheepskin clothing in their monastery chapels, while scarce less wild-looking priests were ministering at their poverty-stricken altars.



VIA DOLOROSA.